

DL 02-000
LOU

[illegible]

DATE DISTR. 31 JUL 53

NO. OF PAGES 4

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

50X1

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

50X1

- 50X1
50X1

DISTRIBUTION

[illegible]

SECRET/US OFFICIALS ONLY/SECURITY INFORMATION

- 2 -

50X1

5. Patients for clinical research were derived from the hospitals, which were all government-operated. There were before World War II three groups of hospital patients, determined by economic group and general status. Most of the patients for clinical research were those belonging to the first or poorest of these groups.
6. With relation to the level of medical research today [redacted] sure that adequate personnel are available. In 1945, there were between 11 thousand and 12 thousand physicians in Hungary, and from the four Hungarian universities were graduating enough MDs to increase this total. This plentiful supply was partly due to the fact that Hungary had an unusually large proportion of its population belonging to the intelligentsia, as contrasted with the so-called working class. Since medicine was a desirable profession for the educated group, there was an ample supply of doctors. [redacted]
7. The medical research program of each Institute was supervised by the Director, usually a university professor. Most of these Institutes were located in Budapest, in conjunction with the major Hungarian university. Other Institutes were affiliated with the smaller universities located at Pecs, Debrecen, and Szeged. Medical research was actively carried on at all these places, sometimes more intensively in the smaller universities than at Budapest. All of these institutions and their research were government-sponsored. In general, up until World War I, medical research was relatively up-to-date in Hungary, as compared with other countries including the US, but definitely declined during the period between World Wars I and II due to lack of money. [redacted] the Communists have been channeling more money into medical research, because [redacted] they are interested in improving the general health and specific medical services of the Hungarian people. Insofar as special research programs established in Hungary for Soviet benefit are concerned, [redacted] doubt that much has been done along this line, [redacted] do not believe the Soviets trust the Hungarians sufficiently to inaugurate such a program. This was the case with the Germans in World War II, and they did not establish a single medical or pharmaceutical factory or initiate any medical research in Hungary.
8. Medical textbooks have been in adequate supply, with a good many available in other languages - German, French, English, and Italian. However, [redacted] very few Hungarians could read or speak Russian.
9. [redacted] medical researchers were allowed relative freedom in their choice of methods or approach to a problem.
10. Correspondence with foreign scientists was not restricted prior to December 1944, and physicians and research scientists were allowed to attend international conferences and meetings.
11. Medical salaries were very poor. To give some idea, a country doctor seeing at least 50 patients each working day, received in 1944 only 180 Pengo per month (and he started practice at 160 pengo per month). One hundred and sixty pengo would in 1944 buy in Hungary about six pairs of shoes. Medical research salaries were a little higher - a situation the reverse of that in Germany or the US, where the practitioner usually had a higher income than the researcher.
12. Hungarian medical professors devoted full time to teaching, but also undertook to direct medical research and evaluate the results. Each professor engaged in such research had a monthly assignment, and progress was reported at monthly staff meetings [redacted] At this same staff meeting, the next month's assignment was given. Laboratory and other research personnel were provided by the Institute, provided the medical researcher was of sufficient status. Younger physicians beginning in research normally did their own laboratory work. Students in medicine at the universities could do some animal experimentation, of course.

SECRET/US OFFICIALS ONLY/SECURITY INFORMATION

SECRET/US OFFICIALS ONLY/SECURITY INFORMATION

- 3 -

13. Medical students in Hungary were drawn from all levels of society. [redacted] 50X1

50X1 [redacted] Medical
50X1 education was very expensive, and there were relatively few scholarships.

14. The curricula of Hungarian medical departments was about the same as those in the [redacted] 50X1

50X1 [redacted] The complete medical
course in Hungary required about six and one-half years.

15. Post-graduate medical training in Hungary was very poor, and no provisions were made for post-graduate study in other countries. Although there was good training in Budapest for certification as an MD, and research work was conducted at the Institutes, there was no organized post-graduate medical curriculum. The Institutes provided the equivalent of post-graduate medical study only for members of their own staff, who were usually affiliated with their Institute for life. There was no Master's Degree in Medicine, but there was such a degree given in Pharmacology. There were very few PhDs in medical fields. In the countryside, the practitioner only had available to him local meetings and medical literature to advance his knowledge. Transportation problems and low income prevented the type of commutation to places of medical activity and professional interest so common in the US.

16. Surgical specialty boards of examination and certification have existed in Hungary since 1896.

17. Every medical Institute had a good library, including foreign publications - German, English, American, and Italian, for example.

18. [redacted] the following medical Institutes existed in Budapest at the university (December 1944): Surgical, Internal Medicine, Pathology, Anatomy, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Pediatrics. The Surgical Institute comprised three separate buildings, each comprising hospital (c.150-250 beds), clinic, and educational facilities, and each under the direction of a professor who was like a king in his own institute domain, subject only to the Department of Health and Education of the State Government. One of these was recently established and very small in late 1944. The Institute of Internal Medicine consisted of two hospital, clinic, teaching establishments. Anatomy was in a single building, and the Institute of Obstetrics and Gynecology occupied two, 50X1

19. Surgical instruments of good quality were manufactured by private enterprise in Hungary. Hemostats, scissors, and similar general instruments were in ample supply from within Hungary [late 1944], but special instruments such as the ophthalmoscope, microscope, cystoscope were imported. However, these latter instruments were beginning to be produced [redacted] 50X1
50X1 prior to 1944. [redacted] thoracoscopes were never produced in Hungary before World War II; however, in 1946, in Germany, [redacted] the first Hungarian-manufactured thoracoscope was being used in a Hungarian hospital at Verne. 50X1

20. Pharmaceuticals were made in Hungary, except penicillin and some of the other later antibiotics. ([redacted] Hungary is now [June 1953] producing penicillin.) Hungarian-manufactured sulpha preparations were particularly good, better on the average than those produced in Germany. It was in this medical-pharmaceutical field that Hungarian medical research was best. Good work was also done in vaccination against mabies. 50X1

21. In 1944, I recall speaking with a Soviet prisoner-of-war through an interpreter, who told me that if he could capture me he would receive a 20 thousand ruble reward, as physicians were so critically needed by the Soviets.

22. Many Hungarian doctors have been imprisoned under the Communist regime, their licenses taken away, and others sent to the USSR. Many doctors are not allowed to practice. One reason this rough treatment is possible is because, [redacted]

SECRET/US OFFICIALS ONLY/SECURITY INFORMATION

SECRET//US OFFICIALS ONLY/SECURITY INFORMATION

- 4 -

50X1

before, there was [redacted] (and probably still today) a surplus of physicians in Hungary.

50X1

23. Surgical procedures in Hungary were generally comparable to those in the US, except for the restrictions imposed by inadequate antibiotics.
24. There was no organized medical specialist in anesthesia, which was unfortunate. Usually, the youngest doctor involved in the surgery, administered the anesthesia. This was the only professional specialty undifferentiated and insufficiently recognized as a medical emphasis of importance.
25. The level of psychiatry was good, following Freudian and Adlerian principles. Psychoanalysis was also practiced. Sodium pentathol and a German-made equivalent "Eviean" were available. "Eviean" was a little more dangerous than sodium pentathol, and [redacted] deaths through its use.

50X1

- end -

SECRET//US OFFICIALS ONLY/SECURITY INFORMATION